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A DECLARATION

To all the World of our

FAITH

And what we believe who are called

QUAKERS.

And this is written that all people upon earth may know by whom, and how we are saved, and hopes for eternal life; and what we believe concerning God, Christ, and the Spirit, and of the things that are eternal, appertaining to all mankind to know and believe.

Concerning God, Christ, and the Spirit, thus we believe.

FIrst, That there is onely one true God, who is a Spirit, and his presence filleth heaven and earth, and he is Eternal and everlasting, the Creator and Preserver of all things; that Heaven and Earth, and all things therein, by him were framed and brought forth, and all things remain unto this day by his Power, and whatsoever he willeth in Heaven and Earth, he brings to passe by his word and Power. And we believe that this God onely is, and ought to be feared, loved, obeyed and worshiped by all creatures; and no other thing besides him in Heaven or Earth; and we believe, That his Worship, and Obedience, and Fear, and Love, is to be given in spirit, even in what his own Spirit moveth & leadeth his people unto. And we believe his true worship, required and accepted of him, is not by the tradition of men, in outward observances, *or set dayes, or places*, but he is worshiped only in spirit & truth, without respect of time, places or things; and that none can worship him in righteousnes but his children who are born of his spirit, & are led & guided thereby. And we believe that this God hath given his

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Son

Son Christ Jesus into the World, a free-gift unto the whole World, and that every man that cometh into the World is lighted by him, that every man might believe, and be saved. And we believe that he is given into the World, & no Nation, Countrey, or people excepted, but unto all mankind is he given of God, and hath lightned them, and every man through the World, that believeth in, and receiveth Christ, who is the VVisdom and Power of the Father, shall be saved with eternal salvation; and every one that believeth not in him, shall be damned, and shall possesse everlasting misery. And we believe that *Salvation*, *Justification* and *Sanctification*, is only in him, and wrought by him, and no other, for there is no other Name given under Heaven but him alone, by which salvation is. And we believe all that receives him, and believes in him, are reconciled to God, and are made alive to God, to live to him in all things, and doth receive the forgivenesse of sins, & are set free from all unrighteousnes, and from the body of sin and death, and hath the Witnesse of the Spirit in them, and the Spirit of the Father they have received, and it witnesseth in them of the Father and of the Son, and of the things that belong unto their peace; & it is the earnest of the Inheritance, and the Seal of the promise of eternall life; and by it are the deep things of God revealed to mankind; and by it the Father & the Son dwells in the Saints; & by it have they fellowship one with another; and the Father, Son, and Spirit are one: And this we faithfully believe.

Again, Concerning Christ, We believe that he is one with the Father, and was with him before the World was; and what the Father worketh it is by the Son, for he is the Arm of Gods *Salvation*, and the very *Power* and *Wisdom* of the Creator, and was, is, and is to come, without beginning or end. And we believe that all the Prophets gave testimony of him, and that he was made manifest in *Judea* and *Jerusalem*, and did the work of the Father, and was persecuted of the *Jews*, and was crucified by his enemies & that he was buryed, & rose again, according to the Scriptures. And we believe he

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he is now aſcended on High, & exalted at the right hand of the Father for evermore; & that he is glorified with the ſame glory that he had before the world was; & that even the ſame that came down from Heaven, is aſcended up to Heaven; and the ſame that deſcended, is he that aſcended.

And we believe even he that was dead, is alive, & lives for evermore; and that he cometh & ſhall come again to judge the whole World with righteouſneſſe, and all people with equity, and ſhall give to every man according to his deeds at the day of Judgement, when all ſhall ariſe to condemnation or juſtification, he that hath done good ſhall receive life, and he that hath done evil, everlaſting condemnation. And we believe he is to be waited for in ſpirit, to be known after the Spirit, as he was before the World was, & that is the knowledge unto eternal life, which all that believe in him doth receive; & he ſubdues death, & deſtroyes him that hath the power of it, and reſtoreth from death to life, and quickneth by his Spirit all that the Father hath given him; and we believe ſuch he juſtifieth and ſanctifieth, & ſuch are taught of him; but he condemns all that believe not, but continues in unbelief, and are not taught of him: And this we faithfully believe.

And we believe that unto all people upon the face of the whole earth, is a time and day of viſitation given, that they may return and be ſaved by Chriſt Jeſus, who is given of the Father to call the worſt of men to repentance; & the moſt ungodly of ſinners are convinced by him of their ungodly deeds, that they might believe, and be converted, and ſaved. And we believe herein is the love of God manifeſted to all mankind, *and that none is ſhut out by him before they were born into the World*; but unto all men is a Viſitation given, and they that do periſh, it is becauſe they do not believe in Chriſt; & deſtruction is of a mans ſelf, but ſalvation is of God through believing in his Son, who takes away ſin, and reneweth into his own Image, that they may become Heirs with him. And we believe that there is a Crown of eternal glory, and an Inheritance of eternal life to be injoyed

for evermore by all that believe and are choſen of God; and that there is an everlaſting miſery and deſtruction to bepoſſeſſed by all that believe not, but continues in the ſtate of reprobation, and are not changed from the wayes of ſin & death, but walks after the wayes of their own hearts luſts, fulfilling the Will of the fleſh, in the evil of this World, and followes not Chriſt the Light of the World, that they may be ſaved; and we believe upon all ſuch the Wrath of God abideth, and that they have no part in the Inheritance of God. And we believe that it is onely he that is born again of the Spirit, and that walks after the Spirit, who is changed from death to life, and who is redeemed out of the World and all its Wayes, ſuch onely muſt inherit the kingdom of God, and they onely have right thereunto, and none beſides even they that are waſhed & cleanſed from all unrighteouſneſſe by the blood of Jeſus, by which their ſins are remitted, for his blood cleanſeth from all unrighteouſneſs and ſin, yea all ſuch that walk and abide in the light which Chriſt Jeſus hath lightned the world withall.

And we believe that the Saints upon Earth may receive forgiveneſſe of ſins, & may be perfectly freed from the body of ſin and death, and in Chriſt may be perfect, and without ſin, and may have Victory over all temptations, by faith in Chriſt Jeſus. And we believe every Saint that is called of God, ought to preſs after perfection, and to overcome the Devil and all his temptations upon earth; and we believe they that faithfully wait for it ſhall obtain it, and ſhall be preſented without ſin in the Image of the Father, and ſuch walks not after the fleſh, but after the ſpirit, & are in covenant with God & their ſins are blotted out & remembred no more, for they ceaſe to commit ſin, being born of the ſeed of God. And we believe the Goſpel of Chriſt is the Power of God unto ſalvation, & that it ought to be preached *freely* unto all people, & Chriſt to be held forth to all mankind by the Miniſtery ſent of him. And we believe this Miniſtry is received by the gift of the Holy Ghoſt, & al they that receive it, are lawfully called to the Miniſtery, and they

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may preach the Gospel of Christ freely, as they have received it freely; & this Ministry is not of man, but of God, & is made powerfull to the converting of sinners, and to the bringing of people to God, & to the knowledge of his wayes. And we do not believe that any man is a Minister of Christ without the gift of the Holy Ghost, or that the Gospel can be received by natural learning or education. And we believe such as preach for hire, and hath hire for preaching, are not the lawful called Ministers of the Gospel of Christ, such as are proud, and high minded, & covetous men, who doth not profit the people at all; such as have run, and never were sent of Christ, who calleth by his spirit into the Work of the Ministry; and as every one hath received the gift of that his spirit, so he may administer to others.

Concerning Rulers and Governors; We believe that there ought to be Rulers and Governors in every Nation, City, Countrey, or Town, and they ought to be such men as feareth God, and hateth every evil way, who will judge for God, and not for man, and will judge righteously, equally, and justly, & will give true and sound judgement unto all men, without bribery, or respect of persons, not regarding the rich above the poor, but being a praise unto all that do well, & a terror to all evil-doers whatsoever, having knowledge in the pure Law of God, & themselves continually exercised therein. And we believe that every Law of man ought to be grounded upon the Law of God, pure reason & equity being the foundation thereof, that Gods witnesse in every man may answer to it; & the Law ought to be known unto all people before transgression be charged or punished in any man. And we believe that every Transgression ought to be punished according to its nature, & that the punishment exceed not the greatness of the transgression; neither ought any transgressor to escape unpunished, neither ought any upon false suspition or jealousies to be caused to suffer without the testimony of true men, or the confession of the party. And we believe that the executors of the Law ought to be just men, & not given to pride, drunkennesse,

neſs, or any other evil whatſoever, & ought to be choſen every year, or otherwiſe, by the conſent of the people; & that no man be ſtopped of his free choice, except juſtly taxed. And we believe that all Governors and Rulers ought to be accountable to the people, and to the next proceeding Rulers, for all their actions, which may be inquired into upon occaſion; and that the chiefeſt of the Rulers be ſubject under the Law, and puniſhable by it if they be tranſgreſſors, as well as the pooreſt of the people. And thus true Judgement and Juſtice will be brought forth in the earth, and all that do well will have praiſe, and live in reſt and peace, and all evil-doers whatſoever may ſtand in awe, and be afraid of God, and juſt men, and the execution of good Laws.

Concerning Religion; VVe believe that it is only the ſpirit of the Lord that makes men truly religious, and that no man ought to be compelled to, or from any exercíſe or practiſe in Religion, by any outward Law or Power, but every man ought to be left free, as the Lord ſhall perſwade his own mind in doing, or leaving undone this, or the other practiſe in Religion; and every man of what profeſſion in Religion ſoever, ought to be protected in peace, provided himſelf be a man of peace, not ſeeking the wrong of any mans perſon or Eſtate.

And we believe that to reprove falſe Opinions, and unſound Doctrines and Principles, ſeeking to convince them that oppoſe themſelves, by exhortation, or ſharp reproof, by Word or Writing, ought not to be counted a breach of the Peace, or to ſtrive about the things of the Kingdom of God, by men of contrary minds or judgements, this ought not to be puniſhable by the Magiſtrates and their Laws; for we believe that the outward Law and Powers of the earth is only to preſerve mens perſons & eſtates, & not to preſerve men in Opinions; neither ought the law of the nation to be laid upon mens conſciences to bind them to, or from ſuch a judgment or practiſe in religion. And we believe that Chriſt is, and ought onely to be Lord and exerciſer of mens conſciences, and his Spirit onely muſt lead into all truth.

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And we believe that obedience & subjection in the Lord belongs to Superiors, and that Subjects ought to obey them in the Lord that have Rule over them; and that children ought to obey their Parents, and VVives their Husbands, & Servants their Masters in all things, which is according to God, which stands in the exercise of a pure conscience towards God: But where Rulers, Parents, or Masters, or any other, commandeth or requireth subjection in any thing which is contrary to God, or not according to him, in such causes all people are free, and ought to obey God rather then man; and we believe that herein God will justifie them, being guided and led by his spirit in all that which is good, and out of all that which is evil.

Again, we believe concerning Election & Reprobation, that there is a state of Election, and a state of Reprobation; a state chosen of God, and a state rejected of God, and that all mankind is in one of these states; all that are elected, are elected in Christ; and all that are out of him are in the state reprobate, bringing forth Fruits of death and darknesse, being children of wrath and disobedience, in the alienation & separation from God, in the transgression, unreconciled to God, the enmity ruling in the heart, being in the Fall, and not restored to God again, but ignorant of his power, and of his wisdom; having the understanding darkned, that they cannot see nor perceive the things that are eternal; and in this condition his best VVorks are sin, and whatsoever he doth, he cannot be accepted with God, for he is dead to God, and alive to all evil, bringing forth all his works out of that ground which is cursed. This is the condition of all mankind upon the face of the Earth, in the first *Adam*; and this is the state of Reprobation, and all that abide herein are rejected of God, and shall never inherit eternal life, but goes into perdition; yet have all such a day of visitation, that they may return out of the state of Reprobation; but hating knowledge, and despising the love of God, they continue in the state reprobate, & the wrath of God abides upon them. But they that are chosen of God, are delivered from wrath,

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for they believe in the light, and becomes children of light, and are renewed in mind and heart, and receiveth love of the Father, and becometh planted into Christ the cond *Adam*, and are chosen in him to bring forth Fruit the Father, and all their Fruit springeth from that gro which is blessed; for they are led by the Spirit of the Fa and such are in the estate of election who are made h with Christ of the everlasting Inheritance that never f away: And this we faithfully believe, That mercy i shewed to the reprobate, nor judgement to them that chosen of God.

And this is to go abroad in the world, that all people may s stand what we believe, and what we have received of God, a that believe this, and walk therein, by the Spirit of the F shall be saved; but they that believe not, but are disobedient truth, shall be condemned because they do not believe. more might be written, but in short, this is given forth by hath believed and received the knowledge of these things God; A friend unto all people,

Edward Burrough.

THE END.

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